

## James Knox Polk to Andrew Jackson, December 5, 1828, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### JAMES K. POLK TO JACKSON.

Washington, December 5, 1828.

*Dear Sir,* When I wrote you a few days since, I ventured to express to you the opinion, that your friends here would not deem it expedient, at this time and under existing circumstances, to attempt any modification or change of the existing law, fixing the period for counting the votes for President and Vice President, and that it would be desirable with them, as I then thought, for you to be here some time before you would have to enter on the duties of the high station, to which you have been called by the voice of your country. Upon further consultation that opinion is confirmed, and I can now speak with certainty. To relieve you from any possible difficulty or doubt, you might have on the subject, a letter has been prepared, which has been already signed by many of your friends in Congress, and will be by others, announcing to you (though unofficially) the entire certainty of your election, and suggesting to you, the importance of being here, earlier than you could be, if you remain at your residence to receive the official communication. That letter will be mailed as soon as the signatures are completed, probably on tomorrow or the next day, and you may expect to receive it by the mail immediately succeeding that which will take you this.

It is already rumoured that you will probably visit Philadelphia before the 4th of March. Letters have been received here inquiring if there be any foundation for the rumour. They have been promptly answered, that there is not, as far as any of your friends here know. I know you will attribute it to the proper motive, when I suggest to you to be cautious how

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you expose your person on your journey, for such has been the excitement, and such is the deep mortification of some of your political enemies who have so vindictively and bitterly assailed you, that many have become reckless, and almost desperate in their feelings, and I often hear among your friends some concern expressed for your personal safety. . . . .